

**Northern Virginia ID Forum 1  
Day Support, Employment, Transportation & Non-traditional services  
Meeting Minutes**

**September 17, 2012**

**Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Cindy Koshatka

**Introductions:** Cindy took roll of the participants for this telephone conference and asked individuals to identify themselves before speaking.

**Attendees:**

Bob Anthony, *NVTC Guardian/Board*  
Jane Anthony, *NVTC Guardian/Board*  
Jennifer McKinney Acheson, *Arlington CSB*  
Joanna Barnes, *Arlington CSB*  
Phillip Caldwell, *Alexandria CSB*  
Don Conley, *Arlington CSB*  
Steve Garcia, *Loudoun CSB*  
Donna Goldbranson, *SPARC*  
Barbara Jones, *Arlington CSB*

Evan Jones, *Fairfax-Falls Church CSB*  
Cindy Koshatka, *NVRPO*  
Jennifer Kurtz, *DBHDS*  
Donna McHugh, *NVTC Guardian/Board*  
Anne Sale, *Family Member*  
Lyanne Trumbull, *NVRPO*  
Elaine Wickliffe, *Prince William CSB*  
Alan Wooten, *Fairfax-Falls Church CSB*  
Natalia Yu, *ServiceSource*

**Purpose of the meeting:** Cindy said that the purpose of the Forums was to help in planning the implementation of the DOJ settlement agreement. The goals for the Forums are to:

- Gain a better understanding of the settlement agreement
- Provide updates
- Open dialog about meeting the needs of individuals
- Identify ideas where we can work together

Cindy stated that the original plan called for five Forums. It was decided that Quality Assurance touched on all the other Forums and would be incorporated into the discussion at the other four Forums. These Forums are:

- Day Support, Employment, Transportation & Non-traditional services, Monday, September 17, 2012
- Residential/Housing and Resources, Wednesday, September 19, 2012
- Workforce Development Needs, Friday, September 21, 2012
- Access to healthcare, including RCSC resources, Monday, September 24, 2012

**Summary/Update on Day Support, Employment, Transportation & Non-traditional services:** Evan Jones, Employment Services Director for the Fairfax/Falls Church CSB provided the summary. He said that the settlement agreement as it relates to day support services is fairly brief and seems clear. The agreement calls for integrated day opportunities for individuals including employment. The State has proclaimed commitment to the Employment First initiative. As part of the settlement agreement Virginia will maintain membership in the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN). SELN is a multi-state cooperative endeavor working to improve employment outcomes for individuals with ID/DD. The

Virginia SELN is looking at such things as the numbers of individuals with disabilities that are employed, the amount of time individuals work per week, how long they have been in their present position. The second Employment First Summit will be held in Virginia Beach on October 2-3, 2012. Presentations and information from the initial Employment Summit can be found on the DBHDS website: <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/ODS-UsefullInformation.htm#empFirst>

Conversations within the region and with the State include the adequacy of the ID waiver rate to cover the cost of service in our area, transportation services, and the capacity of day and transportation providers. Evan stated that Fairfax is currently working with eight day support and 15 employment service providers. Most of these providers have expressed a willingness to expand their capacity if provided with adequate resources to do so. There is a new day support program in Chantilly that has the capacity for serving a good number of individuals.

## **Questions, Answers, Comments**

### **General**

**Question:** Will notes of the Forum meetings be distributed to participants?

**Answer:** It may take a little time to put together but it will be done.

**Comment:** Many individuals at NVTC attend the Skills Training Center. The program is located on campus. Individuals with significant health issues don't expend a large amount of their energy riding to and from a day program. Gridlock and other traffic problems exist throughout Northern Virginia.

**Comment:** Guardians and representatives can request a State run ICF for their individual.

**Comment:** A representative of Virginia said that she will be relaying the questions and comments from the Forum to the State. There are similar regional Forums being held throughout the Virginia.

**Question:** Can ID Waiver (Waiver) money be set aside to cover the cost of aides when individuals need a provider to help with coverage (such as an individual going to or staying in the hospital)?

**Answer:** It is being advocated for through Waiver rate reform.

**Comment:** Waiver rates cover transportation to medical appointments and day programs but not to other important activities in the community.

**Follow up:** Activities are part of individuals' schedules. They are included as approved funding through the Waiver. All the residential providers have vehicles which are used to taking individuals to activities.

**Questions:** The ID Waiver urgent needs waiting list is growing at 8% per year while Virginia's population grows at 1.2% per year. Why is this? How can any regional plan accommodate such a high rate of expansion?

**Answers:** As people age or situations change so does their ability to meet Waiver criteria. Also outreach efforts and issues such as the settlement agreement in the news increase people's awareness of services available. Feedback and comments through meetings such as this are carried to those working with legislators to hopefully anticipate and adequately fund the initiatives.

**Question:** The Settlement Agreement calls for 281 new ID Waiver slots statewide on average for 10 years. Historically, Waiver slots have increased at 360 per year. State law calls for 400 new waiver slots per year. What is a reasonable planning assumption for the growth of new waiver slots?

**Answer:** The State is aware that more than 400 slots per year are needed. The General Assembly recommended 400 waiver slots per year but there is no funding behind this recommendation. Historically we have not always received Waiver slots. The settlement agreement guarantees the minimum number of slots that must be provided.

### **Day Support/Vocational**

**Questions:** Is the Waiver rate sufficient to cover day program funding? Where does funding come from for individuals discharged into ICFs? Settlement agreement talks about this being done to the extent possible. What does that mean?

**Answers:** The daily rate per person for an individual living in an ICF has historically covered day support. Part of the current conversation is the rates paid for day support under the Waiver. There is a wide range of costs for day support in our region. In some cases Waiver funding is sufficient to cover the cost; in other cases it does not cover the cost. VACSB has asked for more comprehensive Waiver rates. They are working with the General Assembly to this end. The Waivers are to be revised and submitted for federal approval by 2014 but the rates don't have to wait until that time to change.

**Questions:** What is the percentage or number of individuals that go out to day programs from the training centers? Would those individuals continue to go out when they transition from the training centers?

**Answers:** Fairfax has 40-45 individuals at NVTC that go out for day programming. They will continue to attend day programs when they transition.

**Question:** Will not going out to a day program be a barrier to leaving the Training Center?

**Answer:** Transition teams are working to find appropriate day placements for individuals in the training centers. Currently about half of the individuals at NVTC are going out to day placements. The State has said that not attending a day program will not be a barrier to transitioning from a training center.

**Question:** Will individuals leaving the Training Center be able to keep their current day program?

**Answer:** Most in community day programs will be able to do so.

### **Transportation**

**Question:** Is LogistiCare increasing capacity to be able to meet the need for service as individuals' transition from the Training Center?

**Answer:** Medicaid provides transportation which is brokered by LogistiCare. Fairfax works with LogistiCare on a weekly basis. There is a regular regional meeting with DMAS, LogistiCare, vendors, and CSBs. LogistiCare is having a difficult time finding enough providers to meet the current need. Acquiring adequate transportation is the responsibility of LogistiCare and the CSBs are trying to work with them.

**Follow-up:** This is an issue that will need continuing attention. Evan will let Cindy know when the LogistiCare meetings are held so the information can be relayed to the Forum participants. Several day support providers offer transportation. Residential providers also sometimes provide transportation to day programs.

**Comment:** A parent pointed out that her child receives seizure medication that needs to be taken at specific times. This is one of the reasons that the length of rides and the reliability of transportation are critical.

**Comment:** The CSBs face transportation challenges every year as individuals enter service from the school programs. Matching individuals with the right provider is very important.

**Question:** Will each developed facility have transportation that accommodates wheelchairs?

**Answer:** It is anticipated that the providers and LogistiCare will continue to provide for this need.

**Comment:** Augmented services that are currently provided in the Training Center will need to take place in the community after individuals transition. Transportation to and from these services is often not billable under Waiver.

**Question:** There was concern expressed that for vehicles with only a driver there may be a greater likelihood that incidents that occur may not be reported. What is the Quality Assurance plan?

**Answer:** State representative said she will check and see if LogistiCare will fall under new on-line incident reporting system being established in Virginia.

### **Adjournment**

Cindy thanked the participants and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.